

TOWNSHIP of SHALER

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FCC - MAILROOM

Timothy J. Rogers, Esq.
Township Manager
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January 3, 2006

DOCKET FILE

Before the

Federal Communications Commission

Washington, DC 20554

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In the Matter of)
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of)
the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984)
as amended by the Cable Television Consumer)
Protection and Competition Act of 1992)

MB Docket No. 05-311

COMMENTS OF TOWNSHIP OF SHALER

I am writing to you in regard to the National League of Cities legislative status report about the FCC's Initiatives on rulemaking for video franchises. I think it important that I impart to you what is happening out in the real world on issues concerning dealing with the cable companies.

I am Township Manager for the **Township of Shaler, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania** and have negotiated a number of franchise agreements with various successor companies that ultimately lead to the current owner of Comcast. We have enjoyed a very good relationship with Comcast and have negotiated over the years, primarily on issues concerning technology and customer service. There has not been a time when we were not under a franchise agreement and there was never an attempt on the part of the Municipality to unreasonably withhold a franchise. **We have a non-exclusive agreement with Comcast and we are currently experiencing an over-build of the system by Verizon which will provide for cable competition.** In prior negotiations with Comcast, in an attempt to streamline the franchise negotiations, the Township joined with 17 other municipalities making up one quarter of a geographic area of Allegheny County and retained the services of a professional Communications Attorney to handle the negotiations. Negotiations were completed in two or three very simple meetings with Comcast that provided a form agreement that all 17 Municipalities had agreed and signed off on. Additionally, this agreement is a ten year period of time.

The purpose of this letter is **to ask you to consider not making significant changes to this successful relationship.** Local municipalities when joined together ease the burden on the cable company and provide for representation of the individuals within those municipalities to discuss issues concerning technology and customer service. Additionally, the franchise fees derived from these agreements are a significant income to


List A B C D E

many of these municipalities. In the case of Shaler Township, we will derive for the fiscal year 2006, a franchise fee income in excess of \$378,000.00 which represents four percent of the Township's annual budget and reduces the tax burden on senior citizens in our community.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

TOWNSHIP OF SHALER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Rogers", written over a horizontal line.

Timothy J. Rogers
Manager

TJR:sm

cc: Representative Melissa Hart
NATO, info@natoa.org
John Norton, John.Norton@fcc.gov
Andrew Long, Andrew.Long@fcc.gov